



INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FIRE FIGHTERS®

HAROLD A. SCHAITBERGER
General President

VINCENT J. BOLLON
General Secretary-Treasurer

Thursday, April 24, 2003

The Honorable Tom Lantos
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lantos:


On behalf of the 260,000 professional firefighters and emergency medical services personnel who are members of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF), I am pleased to offer our enthusiastic support for H.R. 1345, a bill to support our citizen soldiers.

As you are aware, many fire fighters serve in either the National Guard or Reserves. As a result of our nation's multi-front war against terrorism, many of these brave men and women of the IAFF have been call up to active duty.

While some conscientious jurisdictions have voluntarily agreed to make up the difference between military pay and fire fighter pay, too many have not. H.R. 1345 would address this issue by helping local governments with the burden of making up the difference in the lost wage. We applaud your efforts to ensure that those serving abroad will have the comfort of knowing that their families will not face financial hardships.

Please contact me if the IAFF can be of additional service.

Sincerely,



Barry Kasinitz
Governmental Affairs Director